

**Illinois Children and Family Services Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

March 17, 2016 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present

Tim Egan- CHAIR

Judge Patricia Martin

Jahlisa Glenn

Mary Crane

Jennifer Hansen

Alicen McGowan

Anita Weinberg

Carlos Rodriguez

Jill Glick CO-CHAIR

Marge Berglind

Antwan Turpeau

Merri Ex

Derek G. Velazzo

Robert Bloom

Robert Foltz

DCFS Staff

Director George Sheldon

Nora Harms- Pavelski

Lise Spacapan

Jeremy Harvey

Andrew Bridge

Jody Grutza

Meryl Paniak

Chris Boyster

Kristine Herman

LaTanya Law

Michelle Jackson

Absent

State Sen. Mattie Hunter

Billie Larkin

Arnie Spaulding-excused

Jamaal Adams

Former State Rep Naomi Jakobsson

Erin McNamee

Tyshiana Jackson

- I. **Welcome and Introduction-** Meeting called to order 3:41PM by Tim Egan - CHAIR
- II. **Approved Minutes from February 23, 2016 minutes-** One edit requested, minutes passed unanimously
- III. **Mission /Legislative charge**

Discussion:

- Still working on getting a final draft of Mission Vision and Values.
- Group wants to ensure that Faith-based communities are specifically mentioned as allies
- Group agreed to continue the work off line to finalize mission
- Discussion by Meryl Paniak- The charge of this group is very flexible, the wording was intended to give this group structure when there was a lot of change in the department. All 7 charges are simply suggestions with the exception that this council must still write a report to the general Assembly by March 2017

Decisions:

- Further Edits to mission via e-mail
- Finalized version for voting by next meeting April 21

IV. Membership Review and Next Steps- Jeremy Harvey

Discussion:

- Review and presentation of current Membership list. The Council now has all it's seats filled and 2 persons sitting Ad-Hoc in anticipation of chairs opening in the future.
- Next steps include Governor official approval of all applications, and senate confirmation
- Chris Boyster indicated that these approvals are happening without issues.

Decisions:

- Ensure all members have completed applications, Jeremy will send in bulk to Governor's Office for approval

• Custody relinquishment- Kristine Herman , Meryl Paniak, and Director Sheldon

Discussion:

- The department has been at the table with Health and Family Services working on drafting an interagency agreement which has been "in Circulation"
 - We are trying to develop a timeline to transition new responsibility for who issues Individual Care Gants (ICG's)
 - Work is required because last year the money allotted for ICG's was not used because the standard to qualify is extremely high. Due to the increase restrictions, the number that existed in the state dwindled.
 - By moving it to a new agency with more authority, hope is that more ICG's will be issues and biological parents will have more options to get the needs of their children met.
- 1) Marge- Let me ask How many youth over the last 2 years have come to the department due to custody relinquishment. We need to understand the impact that this topic is having on the department
 - 2) Robert- groups have recommended that a mechanism be created to allow Intact to provide access to services and supports so that youth do not have to come to the attention of the Department on a "Lock-Out"
 - One of the ways youth had been deflected in the past was through CCBYS or Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services. CCBYS struggles with serving youth with very high end BX health needs it was not its intended population
- 1) Robert Foltz- Are there any number that demonstrate or measure the strength of community based supports and the correlation to lower access to hospitalization. This demonstrating the efficiency of this investment.
 - Meryl- The department did develop lockout protocols to address these populations. It was intended to arm INTACT with the tools like CCBYS to keep youth at home instead of taking into DCFS
 - 1) Marge- Do we know what benefits will exist due to the transition from HFS to DHS?
 - Kristine- the money amount is the same, but there should be more authority to get the money into the community and loosen the restrictions on ICG's.

Decisions:

- Department will provide 12 months of data based on Psych lock-outs to look at the number together
- Department will provide 24 months of data based on all types of custody relinquishments
- The Department will also provide a brief summary of the issue for this council to review
- Does the Department have or could they create a flow chart to talk about who goes to CCBYs, INTACT, ECT?

SUBGROUP- Will meet prior to the next meeting to continue to look at this topic

Dr. Bloom, Dr. McGowan, and Dr. Foltz

Will report back to the group, review the data, and see if there are any recs. to make on the topic

V. CDRT (Child Death review Teams) Director Sheldon & Jill Glick

Discussion:

- Director Sheldon- This legislation is still pending but is planned to pass to move the CDRT from DCFS to Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Director Sheldon- Of the child, deaths this year the hotline got 200 reports, but across the state 1500 child deaths occurred. I recommended to Senator Morrison that the investigation of these deaths should be down in DPH. Such a large number of these are from Co-sleeping and Drowning.
- Jill Glick- These cases are preventable; I want the CDRT to spend more time discussing the cases, and less time looking through raw data. I want to ensure that DPH has the ability to properly implement this process.

Decisions:

- None-

• **Video /Software- Jeremy Harvey**

Discussion:

- The Department will begin the process of Video Recording and broadcasting all meetings. Posting the video on the Meetings and information section of DCFS webpage
- The Department wants to use digital meeting books to prepare information so that we can upload edit, and comment in documents real time. Jeremy Harvey to follow up on both.

Decisions:

- Boar voted in favor unanimously for video and software.
- Paper copies would be available will provide 5-6 copies.

• **Legislative Update- Director Sheldon 18-21 Services**

Discussion:

- We need to improve the services and quality of services that are available for our youth 18-21. This first and foremost is not an attempt to get access to more money. But it is about improving youth's completion of one of the 2 basic needs to be an adult, education and employment. I am going to have a meeting to help develop this process with a special focus on Pregnant & Parenting teens and how to protect these youth as well.
- This work may re-design 18-21 programming, incentivizing youth to pursue employment or training in a job skill, better preparing them for Post –DCFS.

- For youth who choose to Opt-out we need to design and develop community based safety net, and If that same youth wants back in we need to design a easy mechanism to Opt back in.
- Robert Bloom- So many of our agencies have no clue what to do with youth when they turn 18, it is a real concerns. I have gotten a lot of feedback for saying this but it's just true!

Decisions:

- Connect Marge with the group.

Meeting Adjourned 5:10